(a) whether the Railway Board has framed a policy to allot contracts to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes persons on priority basis;

(b) if so whether the said policy is being strictly adhered to by the Railways; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of trains in Indian Railways where pantry cars are being run on contract basis and the number of contracts awarded to the SC/ST, out of them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) As per existing policy, catering/vending contracts upto 1/2 units are reserved for SC/ST candidates.

(b) This policy is being followed by all the Zonal Railways.

(c) 26 pairs of trains have pantry cars run by licensees. One pair is being managed by Scheduled Caste candidate. Pantry car is considered as one Unit.

Pakistan Premier's proposal fo rNuclear Test ban agreement between India and Pakistan

1767. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the proposal reiterated by Pakistani Prime Minister during her recent visit to the USA for a nuclear test ban agreement between India and Pakistan, as a first step towards a nuclear weapon free South Asia; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been our consistent view that the global implications of the issue of nuclear weapons proliferation makes it impossible to treat this as a question capable of being solved on bilateral or regional basis.

British Prime Minister's offer to cooperate to fight terrorism

1768. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item published in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 15th July, 1989, regarding offer of British Prime Minister to cooperate with India in fighting terrorism; and

(b) if so what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Prime Ministers of India and Great Britain had a meeting in Paris on 14th July 1989. The problem of terrorist activities aimed against India from the British soil was discussed. The British Prime Minister reaffirmed the commitment of her country to extend full cooperation in dealing with this problem and specific steps inthis direction were discussed.

Long waiting lists of passengers on Calcutta Agertala Sector

1769. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is usually a long waiting list of passengers on Calcutta-Agartala sector and *vice-versa;* and

(b) if so, whether any additional flight on this sector is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While Indian Airlines has plans to augment capacity between Calcutta-Agartala sector, Vayudot is not able to offer additional services on this sector due to capacity constraints.